

## REMARKS

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of Nakamigawa, Culik II, Dense Multiway Trees and ACM Transactions on Database Systems. Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

As is apparent from Fig. 1 of Nakamigawa, the combination of nodes is a tree combination structure. As the examiner points out, Culik describes that “each node corresponds to a page of fixed size which can hold up to  $m-1$  keys (and records) and  $m$  pointers” (p. 486, last line - p. 487, line 2). In Culik, however, the combination of nodes is also a tree combination structure (Figs. 1, 2, (p. 489) and 4 (p. 490)). Each node merely corresponds to a page of fixed size.

Therefore, the sequential arrangement of the first page, third page, and second page in amended claim 1, claim 6 and amended claim 7, is not disclosed in these references.

Further, the combination of each node of Nakamigawa is a tree combination structure, and combination of nodes of Culik is a three combination structure. Amended claim 1, claim 6 and amended claim 7 are not derived by combining the teachings of Nakamigawa and Culik.

Fig. 4 of Nakamigawa, which is used by the examiner to reject the original claim 3, now in amended claims 1 and 7, only discloses that, after data B is inserted into a node, data F overflow moves to the next node.


Therefore, the feature of the independent claims, that when both of said first and second pages have sufficient available space, said at least one second data item is moved

to said second page, is not disclosed by Fig. 4 of Nakamigawa. Therefore, claims 1, 6 and 7 would have not been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Culik into Nakamigawa. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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